

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 29, 37 and 38 have been amended and claims 5 and 36 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1-4, 6-35 and 37-63 are pending. Claims 13-16, 23-28 and 43-63 are withdrawn from consideration. Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Claim 29 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 36 and claim 38 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Claims 6 and 37 have been amended to correct their dependencies. Accordingly, no new matter is presented in this Amendment.

As a result, entry of the forgoing amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b) because these amendments simply respond to the issues raised in the final rejection, and the foregoing amendments are believed to remove the basis of the outstanding rejections, and to place all claims in condition for allowance.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 38, 40-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Arai '043 et al. (JP Patent 10-189043, abstract).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Regarding independent claim 1, it is noted that claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Therefore, claim 1 is in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

Furthermore, it is noted that claims 2-4 and 7-8 are also allowable, at least because of their dependence from claim 1 and because they include additional features not taught or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2-4 and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

Regarding independent claim 38, it is noted that claim 38 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Therefore, claim 38 is also in condition for

allowance and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

Furthermore, claims 40-42 are also allowable, at least because of their dependence from claim 38 and because they include additional features not taught or suggested by the prior art.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-4, 7-12, 17-20, 29-30, 32-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Xu et al. (U.S. Patent 6,743,947) in view of Arai '293 et al. (U.S. Patent 6,495,293).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Regarding independent claim 1, it is noted that claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Therefore, claim 1 is in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Furthermore, claims 2-4, 7-12 and 17-20 are also allowable, at least because of their dependence from claim 1 and because they include additional features not taught or suggested by the prior art.

Regarding independent claim 29, it is noted that claim 29 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 36. Therefore, claim 29 is in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Furthermore, claims 30 and 32-35 are also allowable, at least because of their dependence from claim 29 and because they include additional features not taught or suggested by the prior art.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

Claims 5-6, 21-22, 36-37, 39 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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